Translator's notes on Japanese Patent No. 2-135169

- "Chemical liquid tank" is a literal translation of <u>yakueki</u> <u>tanku</u>; an alternate translation could be "medicinal liquid tank."
- 2. In the paragraphs under "Means of Solving Problems" and "Action," water absorbing body 53 is misnumbered as "water absorbing body 5."
- Fig. 2 suggests that there are two of "power feed wire 50," so I have used the plural form "wires."
- 4. The spelling of the brand name "Sanfan AQ" is tentative and could not be confirmed.
- 5. Fig. 2 suggests that there are more than one of "protruding part 55a," so I have used the plural form "parts."
- 6. Fig. 3 suggests that there are multiple parts 59, 59a, and 60, so I have used the plural form for all of these.
- 7. On the fourth line from the top of p.511, "device housing 3" is misnumbered as "device housing 1."
- 8. On the last line of the paragraph above "Effect of the Invention," the second character of the term translated as "non-?? fabric" is illegible. I have tentatively used "non-woven fabric," but cannot vouch for the accuracy of "woven."
- 9. The figures do not appear on the pages in numerical order.

TRANSLATION

- 11) Patent Application Disclosure [Kokai] Number: Hei 2-135169
- 12) OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF UNEXAMINED [KOKAI] PATENTS
- 19) Patent Bureau of Japan
- 43) Date of Disclosure: May 24, 1990
- 51) Int. Cl. 5 Identification Symbol Intrabureau Number

B 05 B 17/06

6701-4F

A 61 M 11/00 300

6840-4C

Request for Examination: Not yet requested

Number of Claims: 1

(Total of 5 pages)

- 54) Title of the Invention:
 - ULTRASONIC SPRAY DEVICE
- 21) Application Number: Sho 63-288197
- 22) Application Date: November 15, 1988
- 72) Inventor: Takahiro IMAI

c/o Matsushita Electric Works, Ltd.

1048 Kadoma, Kadoma City, Osaka Prefecture

71) Applicant: Matsushita Electric Works, Ltd.

1048 Kadoma, Kadoma City, Osaka Prefecture

74) Agent: Choshichi ISHIDA, Attorney

SPECIFICATION

- Title of the Invention
 Ultrasonic Spray Device
- 2. Claims
- (1) An ultrasonic spray device, wherein a water absorbing body extending from a chemical liquid tank is in contact with the metal horn of an ultrasonic vibrator, characterized by said water absorbing body having a hole, the periphery of which is placed in contact with the outer periphery of the atomizing surface of the tip of said metal horn.
- 3. Detailed Description of the Invention

[Field of the Invention]

The present invention pertains to a system for supplying water to a vibrating horn for atomizing liquid in an ultrasonic spray device that utilizes ultrasonic vibrations.

[Prior Art]

An ultrasonic spray device of this type was previously proposed in Patent Application Disclosure [Kokai] Number Sho 58-61861. The water supply system of this previous device has a structure wherein a water absorbing body is in contact with only a portion of the tip of the metal horn in the circumferential direction.

[Problems to be Solved by the Invention]

Because the aforementioned water absorbing body is in contact with only a portion of the tip of the metal horn in the circumferential direction, the portion to which water is conveyed is limited to a straight line in contact with the water absorbing body. Consequently water cannot be easily conveyed to the entire atomizing surface, and atomization occurs primarily on the portion in contact with the water absorbing body. From the standpoint of spraying efficiency, this has the drawback of low efficiency in the use of atomizing energy.

The present invention has been developed in view of the aforementioned drawbacks of the prior art, and has as its objective the provision of an ultrasonic spray device with good spraying efficiency, to be achieved by placing the entire periphery of the outer rim of the atomizing surface of the metal horn in contact with the water absorbing body.

[Means of Solving Problems]

To achieve the aforementioned objective, the ultrasonic spray device of the present invention has a water absorbing body 53 which extends from a chemical liquid tank 2 and is in contact with the metal horn 15 of an ultrasonic vibrator 1. The present device is characterized by water absorbing body 53 having a hole 61, the periphery of which is placed in contact with the outer periphery of the atomizing surface 62 of the tip of metal horn 15.

[Action]

In the present invention, the vibration of ultrasonic vibrator 1 atomizes the liquid (hereafter referred to simply as "water") drawn by water absorbing body 53. Inhalation of this spray into the nasal cavity or oral cavity moistens the mucous membrane, reducing dryness of the mucous membrane and alleviating inflammation. Additionally, water absorbing body 53 has a hole 61, the periphery of which is placed in contact with the outer periphery of the atomizing surface 62 of the tip of metal horn 15, thereby improving spraying efficiency by placing the entire periphery of the outer rim of atomizing surface 62 in contact with water absorbing body 53.

[Practical Example]

The present invention is explained below in further detail with reference to a practical example illustrated by the accompanying drawings.

As Fig. 2 illustrates, a device housing 3 fabricated from molded synthetic resin components contains an oscillator circuit part 9 and a power supply switch 10 mounted on a printed circuit board 16, with a power supply part 11 placed below. Power supply part 11 consists of a dual power supply system, which is capable of utilizing as its power supply either an internally housed dry cell 12 or an external alternating current power source connected by a jack. Ultrasonic vibrator 1 is composed of an electrostrictive element 14 which generates a vibration, and a metal horn 15 which amplifies this vibration. Electrostrictive element 14 is affixed to metal horn 15. Power is supplied from printed circuit board 16 to electrostrictive element 14 via power feed wires 50.

Metal horn 15 has an annular slot 17 around its outer periphery, which is press-fitted into horn holding frame 52 via an 0 ring composed of elastic body 51. Additionally, a tapered bevel part 31 is formed around the periphery of the tip of metal horn 15 of ultrasonic vibrator 1. Chemical liquid tanks 2 are composed of a first chemical liquid tank 20, which is attached to the device housing, and a second chemical liquid tank 56, which can be

freely attached to or detached from first chemical liquid tank 20 and which supplies water to tank 20. First chemical liquid tank 20 is a fixed tank which cannot be readily detached from device housing 3. Water absorbing body 53, which consists of a porous material of hydrophilic plastic, is press-fitted to this fixed tank 20. Water absorbing body 53 is configured so as to convey water to ultrasonic vibrator 1. An example of a hydrophilic plastic porous material that can be used for water absorbing body 53 in the present practical example is the product Sanfan AQ manufactured by Asahi Chemical Industry Co., Ltd. A pressure regulating part 54, which is located at the bottom of chemical liquid tank 20, serves to regulate the pressure within the tank while spraying is in progress. Additionally, the top of tank 20 has a recessed part 55. A projecting insertion part 56a of second chemical liquid tank 56, which is provided to supply water to first chemical liquid tank 20, is freely attached to or detached from recessed part 55. An O ring 57 is provided around the outer periphery of projecting insertion part 56a, such that a tight seal is formed when projecting part 56a is inserted into recessed part 55. At this time protruding parts 55a located at the bottom of recessed part 55 activate a valve 58 which is located on second chemical liquid tank 56, such that water is supplied through a hole (not shown) in recessed part 55. When it is necessary to supply water to first chemical liquid tank 20, this is accomplished by removing second chemical liquid tank 56. Because water can thus be supplied by removing only tank 56, a constant position of contact is maintained between ultrasonic vibrator 1 and water absorbing body 53, which is affixed to tank 20, which is affixed to device housing 3. This in turn ensures stable spraying action.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view of the attachment of ultrasonic vibrator 1 to the aforementioned housing. As Fig. 3 illustrates, vibrator 1 is press-fitted into horn holding frame 52 via an elastic O ring composed of elastic body 51. is supported solely by this O ring composed of elastic body 51, thereby reducing vibration loss on the part of vibrator 1 to a minimum. The elasticity of this O ring further facilitates some degree of adjustment of the position of vibrator 1. The horn holding frame 52 that holds vibrator 1 is attached by the screwing of male screw parts 59 located on the outer periphery of frame 52 into female screw parts 59a located on housing 3. Pressure springs 60 are placed between frame 52 and housing 3, thereby preventing rattling of the screw connections between frame 52 and housing 3. When the device is assembled, the relative position of ultrasonic vibrator 1 and water absorbing body 53 can be adjusted by rotating this horn holding frame $5\overline{2}$. The presence of elastic body 51 as an O ring provides an elastic contact relationship between vibrator 1 and water absorbing body As shown in Fig. 3, a tapered hole 61 is provided in water absorbing body 53 so as to be in contact around its entire periphery with the tapered bevel part 31 formed around the tip of

metal horn 15. As a result, tapered hole 61 and tapered bevel part 31 are in contact around their entire periphery, thereby ensuring that water is uniformly supplied to the atomizing surface 62 of the tip of metal horn 15, and that spray can therefore be generated from the entire surface of atomizing surface 62. This improves spraying efficiency over that of previous devices and conserves energy. The same effect can be anticipated whether the tapered hole 61 in water absorbing body 53 is configured as shown in Fig. 4(a), or as shown in Fig. 4(b). If a top tapered hole part 61a having the same large aperture as the top of tapered hole 61 is formed on the top of tapered hole 61, as shown in Fig. 4(b), atomizing action will be sufficient even when the spray action occurs in a wide angle. Hence the configuration of Fig. 4(b) is the optimum configuration for wideangle spraying.

When power supply switch 10 is turned on, a high-frequency voltage of substantially the same frequency as the mechanical resonance frequency of metal horn 15 is generated by oscillator circuit part 9 and applied to electrostrictive element 14 via power feed wires 50. The ultrasonic vibration generated by electrostrictive element 14 causes metal horn 15 to vibrate as The amplitude magnifying action of metal horn 15 causes well. particularly strong vibrations of the atomizing surface 62 at the tip of horn 15. Meanwhile, water is drawn by capillarity to the tip of water absorbing body 53 from first chemical liquid tank 20. This water is conveyed to the atomizing surface 62 of metal horn 15, where it is atomized and sprayed by the energy of the ultrasonic vibrations. When steady spraying is in progress, the water is continuously atomized by metal horn 15, thereby reducing the amount of water in first chemical liquid tank 20. in tank 20 is therefore replenished from second chemical liquid tank 56, while internal tank pressure is maintained at a constant level by the action of pressure regulating part 54. If spraying terminates and it is necessary to replenish the water supply, only tank 56 needs to be removed for this purpose. Once it is filled with water, tank 56 can then be reset in the device. configuration is extremely hygienic because it makes it unnecessary to touch water absorbing body 53.

Fig. 5 is a circuit diagram of an ultrasonic inhalator. When jack 13 is connected to an adapter for an external alternating current power source, switch 8 is switched over, the battery circuit is opened, and a household alternating current power source can be used.

The preceding explanation is of a practical example wherein a hydrophilic plastic is used for water absorbing body 53. However, water absorbing body 53 is by no means restricted to a hydrophilic plastic. Felt and other non-woven fabrics that draw water by capillarity are also acceptable.

[Effect of the Invention]

As described above, the present invention places a water absorbing body extending from a chemical liquid tank in contact with the metal horn of an ultrasonic vibrator by providing a hole in said water absorbing body and placing the periphery of this hole in contact with the outer periphery of the atomizing surface of the tip of said metal horn. Consequently water can be fed effectively from the entire outer periphery of the atomizing surface of the ultrasonic vibrator, and therefore be sprayed uniformly and efficiently from the entire atomizing surface. This configuration provides an efficient, stable, and easy-to-use ultrasonic spray device.

4. Brief Explanation of Drawings

Fig. 1 is a full perspective view of the present invention. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the present invention. Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view of the attachment of the metal horn of an ultrasonic vibrator to a water absorbing body. Figs. 4(a) and 4(b) are sectional views of two practical examples of the attachment of the metal horn to the water absorbing body. Fig. 5 is a circuit diagram of the present invention. In these figures, 1 is an ultrasonic vibrator, 2 is a chemical liquid tank, 15 is a metal horn, 61 is a hole, and 62 is an atomizing surface.

Agent: Choshichi Ishida, Attorney

[FIGURES LISTED IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE]

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 5

Fig. 3

Ultrasonic vibrator
 Chemical liquid tank

15... Metal horn

61... Hole

62... Atomizing surface

Fig. 4

(a)

(b)

19日本国特許庁(JP)

① 特許出願公開

1

^四公開特許公報(A) 平2-135169

®Int. Cl. 5

識別記号

庁内整理番号

❸公開 平成2年(1990)5月24日

B 05 B 17/06 A 61 M 11/00

300

6701-4F 6840-4C

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数 1 (全5頁)

❷発明の名称

超音波式喷霧装置

②符 頤 昭63-288197

20出 願 昭63(1988)11月15日

の発明者 今井 隆宏 の出願人 松下電工株式会社

大阪府門真市大字門真1048番地 松下電工株式会社内

大阪府門真市大字門真1048番地

^{①出 顕 人 松下電工株式会社 ②代 理 人 弁理士 石田 長七}

明 复 含

1. 発明の名称

超音波式填露装置

2. 特許請求の範囲

(1) 委派タンクから専出された吸水体と風音 波振動子の金属ホーンとの接触において、吸水体 に孔を設け、この孔の周囲を金属ホーン先端の罪 化面の外隔に接触させて成ることを特徴とする超 音波式噴霧装置。

3. 発明の詳細な説明

【産業上の利用分野】

本発明は、超音波要動を利用した超音波式収費 装置における罪化液体の要動ホーンへの供水方式 に関する。

【従来の技術】

従来この種の超音波式噴霧装置としては特開駅 5 8 - 6 1 8 6 1 分等が提案されている。この従 来の供水方式においては、金属ホーンの免婦の間 方向の一部にのみ吸水体が接触する構造となって いる。

[発明が解決しようとする課題]

ところが、上記したように金属ホーンの先端の 関方向の一部にのみ吸水体が接触するものは、 結 水をれる部分が吸水体と接触している直線上に 限 られ、またこのことから寛化面全体に給水することが出来にくく、 寛化は吸水体と接した部分から 主に起こることになる。このため質力効率から見 ると 着化エネルギーの利用効率が悪いという凹が かった。

本発明は上記した従来の問題点に置みて発明したものであって、その目的とするところは金銭ホーンの存化面の外間縁が全周にわたり吸水化と投触して収穫効率のよい超音波式収穫装置を提供するにある。

[森風を解決するための手段]

上記目的を達成するために本発明の超音波式質 指装置は、楽版タンク2から導出された吸水体5 3と超音波振動子1の金属ホーン15との接触に おいて、吸水体5に孔61を設け、この孔61の 周囲を金属ホーン15先端の指化面62の外間に 検放させて成るものである。

[作用]

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本見明にあっては、屈音波振動子1の振動により吸水体53に吸水された線体(以下単に水と株する)を微粒症化し、この噴霧を鼻腔、口腔に吸入させることにより粘膜を湿潤させ、粘膜の乾燥状態を繋め、皮症を和らげるものである。そして、この場合、吸水体5に孔61を設け、この孔61の間を全域ホーン15先端の症化面62の外間に接触させることで、全属ホーン15先端の症化面62の外間縁が全間にわたり吸水体53と接触して噴霧効率を良くするようになっている。

[天选例]

以下本見明を遂付図面に示す実施例に基づいて 詳近する。

第2回に示すように、合成別館成形品により形成した装置ハウジング3内には発気回路部分と電道スイッチ10とを実装したプリント配線基板16を内蔵しており、その下方には電道部11を設けてある。電道部11は2電道方式となっており、

の交換タンク20には現水性ブラスチック多孔体 でできた吸水体53か圧入固定されており、この 吸水体 5 3 が超音波振動子 1 に水を供給十ように 構成されている。ここで、本実施例において吸水 休53を構成する現水性プラスチック多孔体とし ては例えば、旭化収(株)製の商品名、サンファン AQを用いることができる。また、第1の煮液タ ンク20の底部には圧力調整部54が設けてあり、 **東海中のタンク内の圧力を異態するようになって** いる。その上、この第1の星浪タンク20の上部 には凹形55か設けてあり、凹部55に第1の冬 紙タンク20に水を給水するための第2の乗浪ナ ンク56のはめ込み交部5Gaが着良官在に嵌合 してあるいここで、剪2の菱浪タンク5Gのはめ 込み交郎36mの外周には0リング57か取けて あって、はめ込み交郎564を凹部55にはめ込 んだ時に密閉的に投鍵されるようになっており、 またこの場合、第1の是液タンク20の凹部55 の底に設けられた凸部554により第2の長級プ ンク56に設けた弁58を作動させて凹部55に

地電池12を収割して電波とすることもでき、ジャックに接続して外部交流電波を電波として川いることもできるようになっている。超音波最助子1 は最助を発生する電流第子14と最動を拡大する 金銭ホーン15とから構成してあり、電道素子1 4は金銭ホーン15に接着固定され、ブリント配 組括板16より電道素子14に給電線50により 給電される。

設けた孔(図示せず)から給水するようになっている。このことにより第1の基限タンク20に給水が必要な時には第2の基限タンク56を取り外し、給水をおこなうものであり、このように第2ので、後度ハウジング3に固定された第1の基度を到了1との機能位置関係が常に一定となり、安定的な順なが保証されることになる。

ホーン保持件5~2 は外間に設けた進ねと邸5 9 € ハフジング3段けられた雄ねじ酢594に媒合す。 ることで取り付けてある。ここで、ホーン保持や 5~と装置ハウジング1との間に与圧ばね60か 介在しており、ホーン保持作52の装置ハウジン ブ3への場合のかたつきを防止している。したかっ て、組み立て時にはこのホーン保持作52の回忆 により母音改長助子1と吸水体53との位置調整 ができるものである。ここで、吸水体53と風作 波型効子1との技無関係は、単性体5.1であるO リングにて起音波張動子1を吸水体53に発性的 に責後するようになっているが、この場合、用る 近に示すように企民ホーン15の先輩に設けられ たテーパー状の面取り部31に対して全段でこの 面取り節31に技するように吸水体53にテール 一状をした孔61が設けてあり、このことにより 吸水体53のテーパー状をした孔G1と女はホー ン15のテーパー状の面及り貼31とが全間で接 触することとなり、企具ホーン15の先端面の存 化面62に均一に給水されな化面62全面より収

第5回には母で改式吸入器の回路回が示してあり、ジャック13に外部交換電道用アデプターを 弦破するとスイッチ8が切替わって現故回路が開放され、家庭用交流電道を使用することができる ようになっている。

以上、吸水体53か現水性プラスチックの災盗 例について説明したが、吸水体53としては、必 育が可能となり、これにより吸力効率が交米品よりも向上して省エネルギー化が可能となる。また、この吸水体53に及けられたテーパー状をした孔61としては第4図(a)に示されるような形状のものであっても、第4図(b)に示されるような形状のものであっても同様の効果が期待できる。また第4図(b)のようにテーパ状の孔61の上部に上部ほど大任となった上部テーパー孔部61aを形成しておくと、吸指が広角となっても十分に存化が可能であり、吸指を広角にする場合に登過の形状である。

しかして、花波スイッチ10をオンにすると、 見版回路部3より見生した金属ホーン15の機械 的共振周波及とほぼでしい間放敗の高間放電圧は 給工級50により電重選子14に印加され、電圧 選子14により見生した競音波要動は金属ホーン 15と一体となって最動し、金属ホーン15 先間 のお化面62を金属ホーン15の最低は大作用に より大きく最動をせる。一方、吸水体53には第 1の要級タンク20により先端まで毛輝管現象に

すしも収水性プラスナックにのみ限定されず、フェルト节の毛は官見象にて給水する不敢布のような ものでもよい。

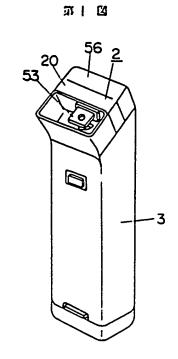
【兒明の効果】

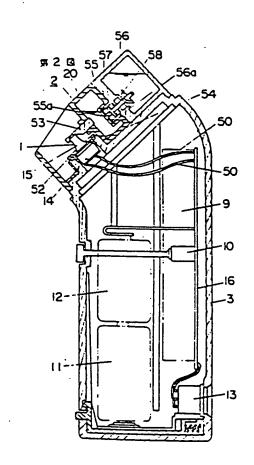
本見明にあっては、叙述のように、差徴タンクから導出された吸水体と母音波最動子の金属ホーンとの接触において、吸水体に孔を設け、この孔の周囲を全域ホーン先端の霜化面の外間に接触させてあるので、母音波最動子の霜化面全体より均り効果的に給水することができ渡化面全体より均一で効率的な噴霧ができ、このことにより効率が良く、使い降手、安定性のよい母音波式噴霧装置を提供することができるものである。

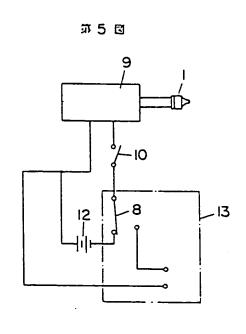
4. 図面の簡単な説明

第1回は本見明の全体料視回、第2回は同上の 新面回、第3回は超音波最動子の全域ホーンと吸 水体との推進部分の拡大新面回、第4回(a)(b)は それぞれ全域ホーンと吸水体との接触例を示する 実施例の新面回、第5回は本見明の回路回であっ て、1は超音波振動子、2は感激タンク、15は

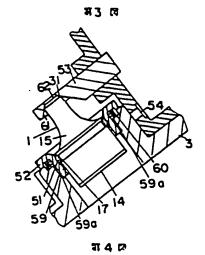
代理人 乔理士 石 田 長 七

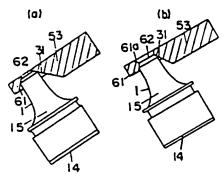












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